Settlement of water dispute between Punjab and Haryana

*158. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to settle the water dispute between the States of Punjab and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): The Central Government constituted the Rabi and Beas Waters Tribunal under Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 on 2-4-1986. On the Report given by the Tribunal, the concerned States and the Central Government have sought explanation and guidance on certain points from the Tribunal.

Maharashtra Government's suggestions to mobilize small savings

*159. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government made some suggestions for starting new schemes for mobilizing small savings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether these have been accepted?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) There are no suggestions from Government of Maharashtra for sarting any new schemes. The Government of Maharashtra had, however, suggested that benefit of Section 80L of the Income-Tax Act be extended to investment in National Savings Certificate VIII issue. It has not been possible to agree to this suggestion.

Decline in foreign tourist traffic to Assam

*160. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of domestic tourists and foreign tourists who visited Assam during the years 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists in Assam is steadily falling due to the prevailing Restricted Area Permit (RAP) system; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove these constraints?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) As per the information available from the State Government the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Assam during the last four years are as given below:

Year	Number of Tourists	
	Domestic	Foreign
1986-87	2,13,285	463
1987-88	2,51,065	573
1988-89	2,58,388	1,292
1989-90 (Provisional)	2,73,891	1,370

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Restricted Area Permit System for Assam has been recently relaxed by the Government to give a further boost to tourist traffic to that State: